

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:04 a.m., in the Boeing Classroom of the Miller Education Center at the Long Beach Museum of Art. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Chris Kozaites, President
Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President
Bea Antenore
Raymond Chavarria
William Marmion
Drew Satariano

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development
Bert Srack, Acting Manager, Community Recreation Services
Diane Lewis, Manager, Community Enrichment Programs
Steven Neal, Chief Ranger
Geoff Hall, Special Projects Officer
Gwendolyn Parker, Superintendent of Contracts & Revenue Development
Marc Gutfeld, Sports Office
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

Guests: Sherril Colcord, student at California State University, Long Beach
Robert Lamond, Partners of Parks

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 21, 2004

It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to approve the October 21, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – LINDA GREENE

Ms. Linda Greene stated that Sammy had been in trouble the past two months, sneaking out at night to the skate park without his kneepads and helmet. She said that the Park Rangers straightened him out and he is ready to move on. Ms. Greene then presented the Sammy Award to Diane Lewis, Manager of Community Enrichment Programs.

IV. EMPLOYEES-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR NOVEMBER

President Kozaites stated that the Employees of the Month presentations would be postponed until the December 16, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#04-1101

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to authorize the Community Recreation Services Bureau Manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hester briefly went over the quarterly report on contract classes.

#04-1102

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR LEO CHICK AND JOSEPH FREW

It was moved by Commissioner Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to approve the placement and installation of the bench in memory of Leo Chick and Joseph Frew at Marine Stadium. The motion carried unanimously.

#04-1103

REQUEST FROM THE CESAR CHAVEZ YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION FOR PERMIT TO SELL NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING LEAGUE GAMES AND EVENTS

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to approve a permit for Cesar Chavez Youth Soccer Association to sell non-perishable food and non-alcoholic beverages at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Drake Park, Admiral Kidd Park, and Veterans Park during league games and events for the period of December 1, 2004 to December 31, 2005, and to waive the fifteen percent (15%) concession fee associated

with those sales. The motion carried with Commissioner Chavarria abstaining.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites stated that the Committee met last week and discussed the agenda. He said that they discussed the facility use fee increase and that he also met with Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager, and discussed the fee increase issue. She let him know that the Department has good communication with the City Manager's office regarding the issue.

President Kozaites stated that the Committee met with the Executive Marine Advisory Committee and established a procedure for both Committees to look at overlapping issues.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that they held two meetings and met with the public regarding tennis fees. He said that the Commission's conclusions were well founded and he felt that the public meeting went well.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee did not meet, but the monthly reports were included in the packet.

Vice President Saltzgaver asked about the process to hire park rangers. Ms. Bert Srack explained that the background check process can take from three to six months.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Chavarria, Chair

Commissioner Chavarria discussed the items from their meeting and stated that the reports were included in the packet.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet.

Mr. Hester mentioned a last minute project that did not have time to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission for this meeting. He said that East Long Beach Little League received a grant from the Dodgers for replacing the irrigation system and reseeding their field at Heartwell Park and that an opening would be held on December 9th with the Dodgers.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that the Committee met last month and that Cesar Chavez Elementary School had its grand opening.

Commissioner Marmion mentioned that Sue Rivard is a great principal and it would be nice if she could speak on shared use at a Long Beach Unified School District principal's meeting.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – OCTOBER 2004

Commissioner Antenore asked about the merging of the Long Beach Youth Fund with the Commission on Youth and Children. Ms. Srack responded that this is an organization based out of San Francisco that provides grants. The youth Commissioners would serve on the board.

President Kozaites asked how the newly constructed debris boom was working. Mr. Shippey responded that the boom is working very well.

Commissioner Antenore asked about Long Beach Unified School District sport teams being bussed only one way to away games and then being expected to find their own way back home. Ms. Srack responded that she would get more information and clarify the statement.

Commissioner Satariano mentioned that the Special Events and Filming Bureau was growing. Mr. Hester responded that Long Beach is the second largest filming city in California.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that it might be worth it to have large events pay a special fee to have a coordinator lead them through the fee process and the event.

B. MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Shippey stated that the report was distributed today because there was a problem with the printer.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Kozaites stated that there was no correspondence.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT

Mr. Eschen stated that this is an annual report required by the Planning Commission for the Open Space and Recreation Element. He said that most of the items the Commission has been briefed on during the year.

Commissioner Marmion asked for the status of Victory Park and Santa Cruz Park. Mr. Eschen responded that the two parks in front of the Camden Development are complete and the new Aqua project, what used to be called the Genesis project, should be getting close to their planting. He said that a new developer has taken over the Pine and Ocean Boulevard project, which was approved, and a new plan would be coming before the Commission.

Commissioner Marmion stated that if a future meeting would be scheduled at Cesar Chavez Park, the Commissioners could possibly have a walk-through of the restored park land with someone who is knowledgeable.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to receive and file the information on the progress on implementing the Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan in FY2004. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hester commended Mr. Eschen on this report; he does a very good job in putting everything into perspective for the Open Space Plan.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS

Mr. Hester stated that the City Council requested that the Department look at the feasibility of constructing universally accessible playgrounds in new parks and to address whether elements of these playgrounds could be incorporated into the existing parks. He explained that the City's 42 playgrounds, which were upgraded over a ten-year period, currently meet ADA requirements. He explained the differences between the standards for ADA and universally accessible playgrounds. Mr. Hester stated that the City of Los Angeles is going to build 11 universally accessible playgrounds, funded by Proposition 40.

Mr. Hester stated that the recommendation is to refer this to the Parks and Recreation Commission and prepare a report back to the City Council. He said that there was no time frame, but there is a level of high interest. He stated that the Department would probably need information within the next 90 days for funding considerations to incorporate into next year's budget.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that this falls within the purview of his Capital Improvements Committee and would like a staff person dedicated to coordinating the public meetings, to make sure all the special interest groups, as well as Council members and the general public are invited.

President Kozaites agreed that this would fall under the Capital Improvements Committee, but also encouraged the entire Commission to be involved.

Commissioner Marmion suggested that staff check with the director of special education for the Long Beach Unified School District to find out which schools these kids attend. Mr. Hester responded that he believed these children are mainstreamed into all the schools.

It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to direct staff to coordinate a series of public and committee meetings under the auspices of the Capital Improvements Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

B. PARKLAND ACQUISITION

Mr. Eschen said that there are five sites getting close to the point of being acquired. The Department previously brought these to the Commission to authorize their individual grant applications, so they are not new, but a formal recommendation is needed for acquisition. He said that the sites at 620 San Francisco Avenue would possibly be part of the wetland area and the building would be used as a nature center or an environmental education center. He said that the second property is 903 Fairbanks, which is currently a ceramics factory. He said that the building would eventually be demolished. He stated that the third site is the MTA property, which is primarily used for bus storage at this time. Mr. Eschen stated that these properties are clustered together in the Drake/Chavez Greenbelt and acquiring these three properties would provide the majority of that greenbelt site. He said that the Union Pacific railroad property is not included on the list; the Department has over half the funding needed to acquire this location from the recent grants received. He indicated that the other two properties are located along the old Pacific Electric railroad right-of-way; one section funded recently from the MTA grant received five years ago. He stated that there is an island in the middle of the Alamitos Ave. and Walnut Ave. intersection and a property adjacent to the Chittick field area, which the City would like to acquire.

Commissioner Antenore asked if the Parks and Recreation Commissioners could be given a tour of all these places next year. Mr. Hester responded that it would be a good idea.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Marmion to recommend to the City Manager and the City Council that the City acquire the referenced parcels for parkland purposes (620 San Francisco Ave., 903 Fairbanks, MTA Property, Pacific Electric right-of-way from Orange Avenue to Alamos Avenue, and LB Self Storage property south of Alamos Avenue). The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hester stated that he would like to bring up an item that is currently under discussion to create a master plan for Lincoln Park, in which the Department has been asked to take the lead. He said that Public Works was working on a project to redo the roof of the main library because of leaks. He distributed an aerial photo. He said that the Department took over maintenance of the area on October 1 2004.

Mr. Hester stated that two public meetings were held with surrounding business owners and the public asking what their vision would be for the site. He said that surveys were also distributed asking what the public preferred, an active or a passive park. He said that he wanted to bring this up because the item would be coming before the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Chavarria asked how the City would be dealing with the homeless. Mr. Hester responded that staff is designing the park, which is open to the public because it is a public facility. He said that as long as people are not breaking any law, they are allowed to be there. He mentioned that people are not allowed to be in parks overnight past 10:00 p.m. He said that the Department is not addressing the homeless issue.

Mr. Robert Lamond asked if there would be any consideration for taking back the Civil War veterans cannon from Parker's Lighthouse and putting it back in Lincoln Park. Mr. Hester responded that Mr. David Denevan was at the public meeting for Lincoln Park and gave staff a set of plans for the cannon when it was in Lincoln Park. He said that staff is going to follow up on this information. He stated that Mr. Denevan thinks there is some documentation that requires Shoreline Village to move the cannon, which weighs about four tons, back to the park. Mr. Hester stated that Mr. Denevan had some engineering drawings done on what the cannon would sit on. Mr. Hester said that there is a question as to where the cannon would sit and would the area hold its weight, because there is a parking structure below Lincoln Park.

XI. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the audience.

B. STAFF

Ms. Diane Lewis mentioned Holiday events at the Rancho Los Cerritos, the candlelight tours and the open house.

Mr. Hester distributed a copy of the *Southern California Tennis and Golf* publication, which lists the Billie Jean King Tennis Club as one of Southern California's best tennis facilities in 2004.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chavarria congratulated the Employee Recognition Committee for a great Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon

Commissioner Satariano said that he forgot to mention that the minutes from the Finance and Appeals Committee public meeting were included in the packet.

Commissioner Satariano stated that he has watched parents of mentally or physically challenged children get frustrated at parks because the kids just can't get involved in the play equipment. He said he watched the City Council meeting and wants to lend his support and commended Phil, because he feels that there is urgency to addressing this. Commissioner Satariano requested that he be kept updated on the status, not just at the Commission meetings, to be able to provide answers to the community.

Commissioner Satariano wanted to thank the Long Beach Museum of Art for allowing the Parks and Recreation Commission to meet here.

Commissioner Marmion stated that he sits on the Finance and Appeals Committee and complemented Gwendolyn Parker on her work with the committee.

Vice President Saltzgaver said that when the universally accessible playground meetings are set, the entire Commission should be invited to them.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that Chicago is making a huge effort to put video surveillance cameras in areas, and he hasn't heard the Department mention them yet, with all the park vandalism.

Commissioner Antenore stated that for the amount of money it costs to replace and fix stolen and damaged items, it would seem penny wise and pound foolish not to install cameras.

Mr. Hester responded that there is a City-wide committee in which the Department is involved.

Mr. Tom Shippey stated that the Department has ordered two cameras at Hudson Park at Houghton Skate Park to monitor those facilities.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Colorado Lagoon study has been extended for another four or five months, but at the same time, the County is getting close with their Termino Drain EIR, this time avoiding the Colorado Lagoon and going straight to Marine Stadium. He said he would like an update of this project and the Pacific Electric right-of-way.

Mr. Eschen responded that the feasibility study is a Public Works project under Tom Leary and the Department has been participating. He said that it is coming to a conclusion and the extension that was on the City Council agenda was for billing purposes. He said that the actual study is to be presented to Public Works by Moffat and Nichol by the end of the year.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department just received two large grants from the State. He said that one is for \$2.23 million for the Chavez/Drake project and the other is for \$2.5 million for California Recreation for the renovation of the community center, to purchase adjacent land for parking, and to develop a teen center. He stated that staff has done a very good job applying for grants and paperwork has been submitted for another five grants.

President Kozaites thanked Vice President Saltzgaver for allowing him to golf with Harry at the Skylinks opening tournament.

President Kozaites acknowledged Commissioner Chavarria for the special recognition to the Commission's Employee of the Year from Congresswoman Millender-McDonald.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2004, at the El Dorado Park West community center, in the Senior Center library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine